

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/763,937

Examiner

JOHN C. HONG

Applicant(s)

CHERNOFF ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 1/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach : Regarding Claim(s) 16, a method of manufacturing a vehicle body compartment lid, the method comprising: providing a unitary panel having a first portion formed as a vehicle body compartment lid outer panel and a second portion formed as a vehicle body compartment lid inner panel; and wherein the method further comprises forming a sheet to produce the panel; wherein the forming the sheet includes placing the sheet in its substantially unformed, flat state between first and second die members movable between a die open position, for insertion of the sheet in its flat state and removal of the formed panel, and a die closed position in which the dies sealingly engage the periphery of the sheet for stretch forming of the die enclosed area of the sheet utilizing differential gas pressure, the first die member having a forming surface and defining a cavity between the forming surface and a first surface of the sheet, the second die having a sheet metal shaping surface opposite the cavity, the dies being in the die open position and the sheet being positioned between the preform surface and the cavity; and Regarding Claim(s) 19, a method of manufacturing a vehicle body compartment lid, the method comprising: providing a unitary panel having a first portion formed as a vehicle body compartment lid outer panel and a second portion formed as a vehicle body compartment lid inner panel; and wherein the method further comprises forming a sheet to produce the panel, wherein the sheet is comprised of a magnesium-containing, aluminum alloy, the alloy comprising up to about 6% by weight magnesium and having a microstructure characterized by a grain size in the range of about 5 to 30 micrometers, and wherein the forming the sheet includes heating the sheet to a temperature in the range of about 400° C. to about 510° C.; and

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stretching at least a portion of the heated sheet so that one side of the sheet is brought into conformance with a shaping surface by applying working gas pressure to the opposite side of the sheet, the stretching being accomplished by continually increasing the pressure from ambient pressure to a final stretching pressure in the range of about 250 psi to about 500 psi above ambient pressure and completing the stretching within a period of up to about 12 minutes in combination with the other elements of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN C. HONG whose telephone number is 571-272-4529. The examiner can normally be reached on HPH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID BRYANT can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



JOHN C HONG
Primary Examiner
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jh
January 30, 2007